

Amendments to the Claims:

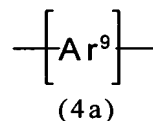
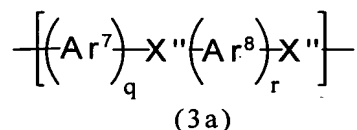
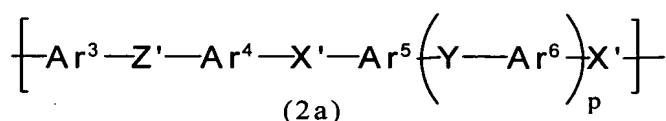
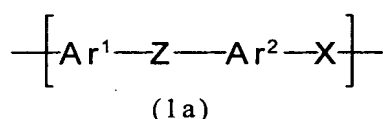
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A polymer electrolyte comprising the polymer main chain having the oxygen element and/or sulfur element and the aromatic carbon ring, and the ion exchange group being directly bonded to a part or all of the aromatic carbon ring, wherein the ratio (R) of the number of the aromatic condensed cyclic carbon ring to the number of all of the aromatic carbon ring (number of aromatic condensed polycyclic carbon ring/number of all of the aromatic carbon ring) in the polymer electrolyte satisfies the equation below,

$$1 > R = 0.15 \quad 1 > R \geq 0.15$$

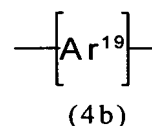
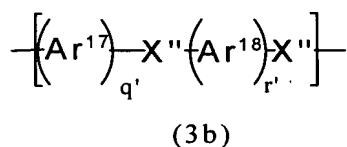
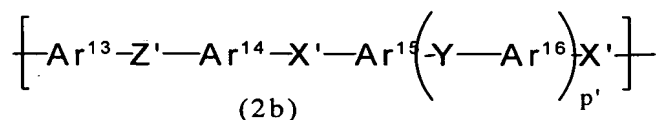
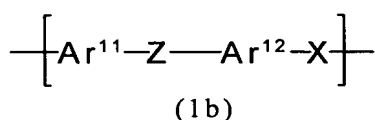
2. (Original) The polymer electrolyte according to claim 1, wherein the polymer electrolyte comprises one or more of the repeating unit having the ion exchange group selected from the general formula (1a) to (4a),



(wherein Ar^1 - Ar^9 represents a divalent aromatic carbon ring, which may have a substituent independent of each other and have an ion exchange group in the aromatic carbon ring. When the substituent on Ar^1 - Ar^9 has an aromatic carbon ring, said aromatic carbon ring may have the ion exchange group. Z and Z' represent either CO or SO₂ independent of each other, whereas X, X' and X'' represent either O or S independent of each other. Y represents a

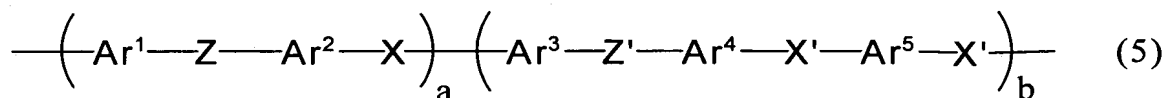
direct bond or a methylene group, which may have a substituent. p represents 0, 1 or 2, whereas q and r represent 1, 2 or 3 independent of each other,)

and one or more of the repeating unit substantially not having the ion exchange group chosen from the general formula (1b) to (4b),



(wherein Ar^{11} - Ar^{19} represent a divalent aromatic carbon ring, which may have a substituent independent of each other. Z and Z' represent either CO or SO_2 independent of each other, whereas X, X' and X'' represent either O or S independent of each other. Y represents a direct bond or a methylene group, which may have a substituent. p' represents 0, 1 or 2, whereas q' and r' represent 1, 2 or 3 being independent of each other.)

3. (Original) The polymer electrolyte according to claim 1, wherein the polymer electrolyte is represented by the general formula (5) below,



(wherein Ar^1 - Ar^5 represent a divalent aromatic carbon ring which may have a substituent independent of each other. and Z and Z' represent either CO or SO_2 independent of each other, whereas X and X' represent either O or S being independent of each other. When any of Ar^1 - Ar^5 does not contain the aromatic carbon ring as a substituent, at least any one of Ar^1 - Ar^5 contains the ion exchange group, whereas when any substituent in Ar^1 - Ar^5 contains the aromatic carbon ring, at least either one of Ar^1 - Ar^5 or the aromatic carbon ring contained has the ion exchange group in the aromatic carbon ring. The number of the

repeating unit, a and b, represent an integer larger than 0, respectively and a + b is larger than 20.)

4. (Currently Amended) The polymer electrolyte according to Claim 1, ~~any one of Claim 1 to 3~~, wherein the aromatic condensed polycyclic carbon ring is the two-ring to four-ring aromatic condensed polycyclic carbon ring.

5. (Currently Amended) The polymer electrolyte according to Claim 1, ~~any one of the claim 1 to 4~~, wherein the ion exchange group is the acid group.

6. (Original) The polymer electrolyte according to Claim 5, wherein the acid group is any one of the sulfonic acid group, sulfoneimide group, phosphonic acid group and carboxylic acid group.

7. (Currently Amended) The polymer electrolyte according to Claim 1, ~~any one of Claim 1 to 6~~, wherein the ion exchange capacity ranges from 0.1 to 4 meq/g.

8. (Currently Amended) The polymer electrolyte according to Claim 1, ~~any one of Claim 1 to 4~~, wherein the polymer electrolyte comprises one or more of a block having the acid group and one or more of a block substantially not having the acid group, respectively.

9. (Original) The polymer electrolyte according to Claim 8, wherein the block substantially not having the acid group contains the aromatic condensed polycyclic carbon ring.

10. (Currently Amended) A polymer electrolyte composition by using the polymer electrolyte according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claim 1 to 9~~ as an effective component.

11. (Currently Amended) A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising the polymer electrolyte according to Claim 1, ~~any one of Claim 1 to 9~~.

12. (Original) The polymer electrolyte membrane comprising the polymer electrolyte composition according to Claim 10.

13. (Currently Amended) The polymer electrolyte membrane for a direct methanol-type fuel cell comprising the polymer electrolyte according to Claim 1, ~~any one of Claim 1 to 9.~~

14. (Original) The polymer electrolyte membrane for a direct methanol-type fuel cell comprising the polymer electrolyte composition according to Claim 10.

15. (Currently Amended) A solid polymer fuel cell comprising the polymer electrolyte according to Claim 1, ~~any one of Claim 1 to 9.~~

16. (Original) The solid polymer fuel cell comprising the polymer electrolyte composition according to Claim 10.

17. (Original) The solid polymer fuel cell comprising the polymer electrolyte membrane according to Claim 11.

18. (Currently Amended) A direct methanol-type fuel cell comprising the polymer electrolyte according to Claim 1, ~~any one of Claim 1 to 9.~~

19. (Original) The direct methanol-type fuel cell comprising the polymer electrolyte composition according to Claim 10.

20. (Currently Amended) The direct methanol-type fuel cell comprising the polymer electrolyte membrane according to Claim 11, ~~any one of Claim 11 to 14.~~